

District 2 Announcements

District 2 Town Meeting

What: Transportation – Too many projects, too little money.
Where do we start?

Guests: State Rep. Ed Murray (D-43rd) and King County
Councilmember Julia Patterson (South King County)

When: Wednesday, May 19, 7 p.m.

Where: University Heights Center (5031 University Way N.E.)

For more information, call (206) 296-1002.

Bob Ferguson
Metropolitan King County Council
King County Courthouse
516 Third Ave., Rm. 1200
Seattle, WA 98104-3272



In Our Community



Bob and the District 2 staff volunteered as servers at Wallingford Senior Center's March 5 Birthday Lunch.



A Blanchet High School graduate, Bob returned to his alma mater for a lunch with class officers March 19.

FARMERS MARKETS ARE BACK!

University District
Saturdays, May 22-Nov. 20, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
on The Ave. at N.E. 50th

Lake City
Thursdays, May 29-Oct. 14, 3 p.m.-7 p.m.
N.E. 127th and 30th N.E. (behind the fire station)

The University and Lake City markets bring you farm fresh fruits and vegetables, flowers, cheese, eggs, bread, honey, cider, and occasional fresh fish and oysters. They also bring excitement and a chance to see a weekly parade of your neighbors as we all stroll the booths. Even better, supporting the vendors means you're supporting small, local farms. King County helps make this connection possible through the Puget Sound Fresh program.

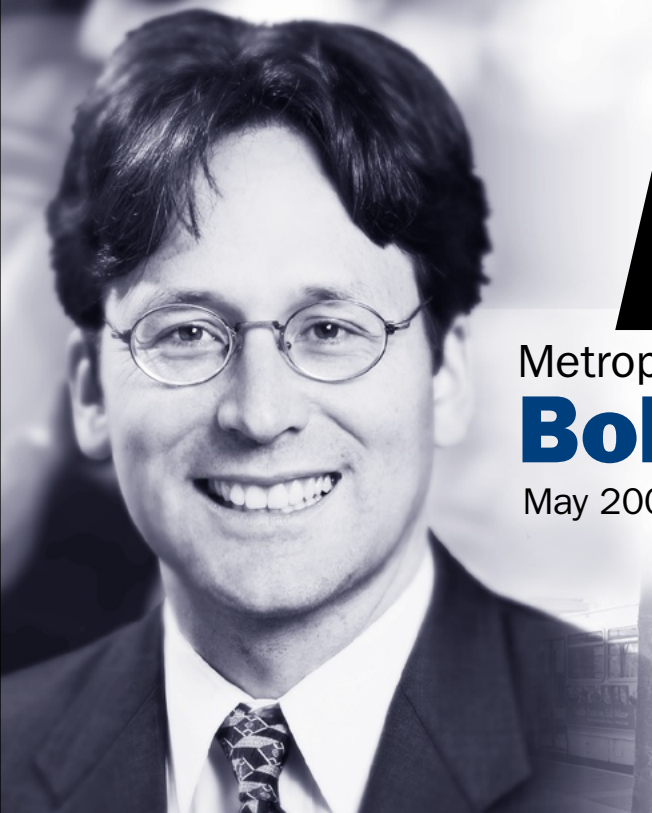
Please join me on opening day!

JOIN ME FOR COFFEE

Do you have an issue or question you would like to discuss in person? Most Fridays (and some Tuesdays and Saturdays) I spend part of the day meeting with constituents at one of the great coffee spots in the district. If you would like to reserve a 30 minute slot, please call my office at 296-1002 or e-mail me at bob.ferguson@metrokc.gov.

INTERNS WANTED

I am currently accepting applications for the position of Fall Intern. I am seeking college students interested in government who need course credit or who are work-study eligible. Call 296-1002 or e-mail me at bob.ferguson@metrokc.gov for more information.



Survey Results Inside!

District 2

Metropolitan King County Councilmember

Bob Ferguson

May 2004



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Town Meeting Scheduled
Join me to talk about regional
transportation and other issues
important to you!
Wednesday, May 19, 7 p.m.
University Heights Center
(5031 University Way N.E.)

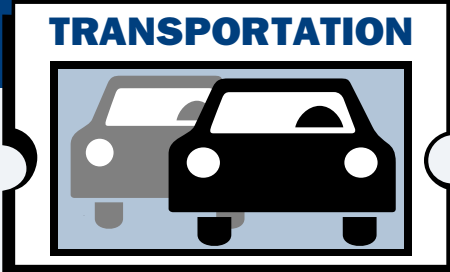
District 2

Metropolitan King County Councilmember

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May 2004

NEWS



Regional Transportation Investment District Q&A

This fall voters in District 2 (and throughout King, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties) may be asked to vote on a package of taxes and fees to pay for a list of specific highway and transit projects being developed by the Regional Transportation Investment District (RTID). When meeting with constituents, I am frequently asked “What is RTID?” Here are some basics about RTID to help you find your way through the coming storm of debate.

Q: What is RTID?

A: RTID is a sub-group of counties – King, Pierce, and Snohomish. In 2002 the State Legislature empowered the counties to plan as a group for a package of specific types and levels of taxes and user fees to pay for a slate of transportation improvements in all three counties. Together, the 25 members of the three county councils make up the RTID Planning Committee. A seven-member Executive Board (three members from King County and two each from Pierce and Snohomish) is working to develop a package of revenues and projects. The Planning Committee must approve a plan by a 60 percent “yes” vote. The final package must then be approved by a majority of the voters in the three-county district.

Q: What kind of taxes and user fees are being considered?

A: The chief revenue sources available to the RTID are:

- Additional sales tax of 0.1% to 0.5%
- Vehicle License Fee of \$1 up to \$100
- Motor Vehicle Excise Tax (MVET) of 0.1% to 0.3%
- Local Gas Tax up to 2.8 cents per gallon
- Tolls on specific roads or bridges

Q: What’s the difference between a Vehicle License Fee and the MVET?

A: The Vehicle License Fee is a set annual fee that you pay when you renew your tabs. The MVET is an annual fee based on a percentage of the vehicle’s value as set in a depreciation table established in state law.

Q: What can RTID pay for?

A: RTID funds can be used to expand or extend “Highways of Statewide Significance,” including bus

purchases and facility improvements on these highways. A small amount of funding could be used for smaller city and county streets if the improvements are authorized by the State Secretary of Transportation and if the local government has enough matching dollars. RTID cannot pay for rail projects except through a joint ballot with Sound Transit.

Q: What will RTID pay for?

A: As of April, the Executive Board of the RTID Planning Committee recommended a combination of:

- Sales taxes (0.2 cents of regular sales tax plus 0.1 percent from Sound Transit’s sales tax authority)
- License fee (\$75)
- Excise tax (0.3%)
- Local gas tax (2.8 cents per gallon)

This totals up to \$12.4 billion over a 15-year construction period. Investments in projects will be equitably distributed among the counties depending upon the amount of funds generated in each county. King County would receive \$7.3 billion, Pierce County \$2.9 billion, and Snohomish County \$2.3 billion. Specific project lists are still being compiled. Within King County, some people would like to see the money distributed evenly around the county, while some think there should be money taken “off the top” for the viaduct and 520 bridge.

Q: Where would tolls happen?

A: Tolling is a possibility for the 520 Floating Bridge under the current proposal. In general, tolls would be allowed only on new highways or on highways that have been reconstructed as a part of the RTID package.

Q: How much would the current proposed package of taxes and fees cost people?

A: Based on average incomes and car ownership, the taxes and user fees would total between \$270 and \$290 per household per year (not including tolls).

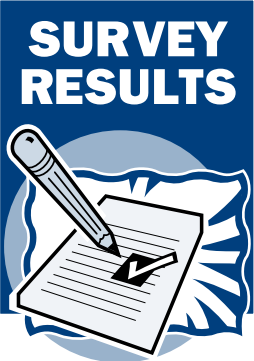
Q: What happens next?

A: The Executive Committee voted 6-1 in favor of the \$12.4 billion revenue package at its March 12 meeting. A complete package of revenues and projects will go to the full Planning Committee. If approved, each county council must then approve the package before it can be decided upon by voters.

For more information about RTID, please join me at the District 2 Town Meeting on Wednesday, May 19, 7 p.m., at the University Heights Center (5031 University Way N.E.). You can also learn more about RTID at <http://www.rtid.dst.wa.us/>.

FERGUSON NAMED TO 520 COMMITTEE

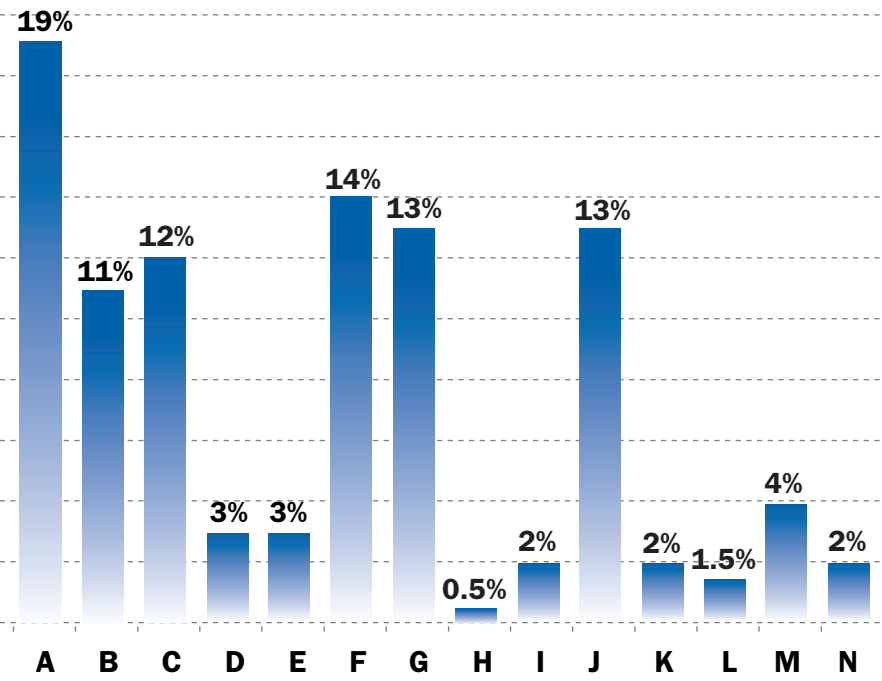
King County Councilmember Bob Ferguson has been appointed to the SR 520 Bridge Replacement and HOV Executive Committee. As a part of this committee, Bob will help decide how to replace the current bridge with a sturdier structure that can accommodate more cars, buses, and bikers. More than 120,000 cars cross Lake Washington on the Evergreen Point Bridge. A draft environmental impact statement with initial replacement options will be available in Summer 2005. You can find out more at <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/SR520bridge/> or watch future District 2 newsletters for details.



Reduce the council, add more bus routes, and say “yes” to human services

Many thanks to those of you who completed and returned the 2004 Issues Survey from the January District 2 newsletter. So far, more than 2,500 of you took the time to respond. Your answers on the range of questions – ranking important services; telling me what you think of Metro service; your opinions on regional transportation financing; and much more – help me represent you effectively. I am including a portion of the response data in this newsletter. If you are interested in seeing the complete survey results, please visit the District 2 website at <http://www.metrokc.gov/ferguson> or call me at 296-1002 and I will mail you a copy.

Please rank issues affecting our community.
(Percentage of "top priority" votes for each category.)



- A. Crime & Public Safety

B. Affordable Housing

C. Alt. Transportation Choices

D. Local Business Dev. & Support

E. Parks & Recreation

F. Environmental Protection

G. Reduce Property Taxes
- H. Public Support for the Arts

I. New Road Construction

J. Reduce Traffic Congestion

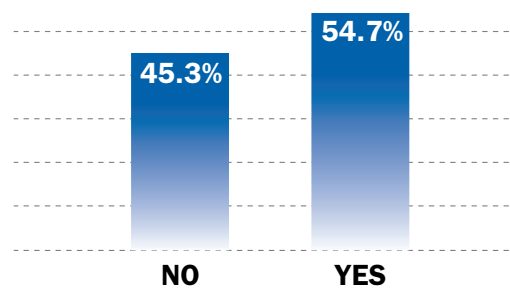
K. Increase Senior Services

L. More After-School Programs

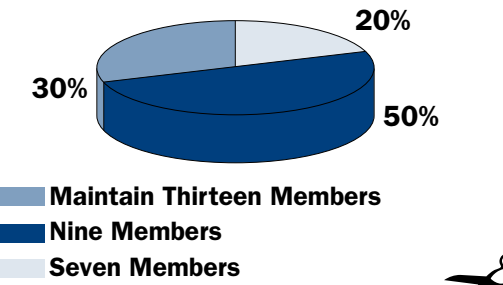
M. Services for Homeless People

N. Other

Would you support a special King County tax dedicated to funding human services?



Which of the following best describes your position regarding the ideal size of the King County Council?



DISTRICT 2 ACTION-GRAM

Name: _____

E-mail address: _____

Mailing address: _____

_____ Zip: _____

My question, concern, or idea is: _____
